How does your day compare?

Compare your school day with a day working in a Victorian mill by using the information on sheet ❸Ⓐ.

Mill worker		You	
Time to get up		Time to get up.	
Time to start at the mill		Time to start at school	
Time of break in the morning		Time of break in the morning	
The length of the break		The length of the break	
Time for lunch		Time for lunch	
Length of lunch-time		Length of lunch-time	
Time of afternoon start		Time of afternoon start	
Time of break in the afternoon		Time of break in the afternoon	
Length of break in the afternoon		Length of break in the afternoon	
Time of finish		Time of finish	

Edith said that a piecer may walk twenty miles in twelve hours. A mile is 1,600 metres. This means that a piecer walks 20 x 1,600 = 32,000 metres in twelve hours. and 32,000/12 = 2,666 metres per hour or 44 metres per minute.

1. Measure out 44 metres and walk it in a minute. Imagine doing that for twelve hours.

2. How many metres do you walk in an hour spent in the classroom?

✎ ....

3. If you were to work in the classroom for twelve hours how far would you walk?

✎ ....

How does your day compare?

Age range
- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources
Copies of the worksheet. Copies of worksheet **3A**. Metre rule or long measuring tape (sports tape). Part of the school at least 44 metres long.

Using the worksheet
The information on worksheet **3A** gave times of work at a mill. Let the students work out the times to fill in on this worksheet from this information. Let the students work out the times for their own school day. They can then compare them to appreciate the long hours that Victorian children in the mills worked.

Let them work in pairs or as a class group to see how far a piecer may walk in a minute. Let the students walk this distance either at their own pace or by taking a minute. They may find that they could walk this distance much faster but they need to be reminded that they have to do that for 720 minutes every day!

Younger students
Some students may need help in extracting the times of work and rest from the text on worksheet **3A**.

Outcomes
The students can:
- Extract information from a text.
- Construct a timeline of the school day.
- Make comparisons between working in a Victorian mill and a 21st century school.

Older students
The students can work out the hours spent working and relaxing in a Victorian mill and their school. They should note that the workers in the mill only have a 40 minute lunchbreak even though the engine stops for an hour.

Outcomes
The students can:
- Extract information from a text.
- Perform calculations on the information.
- Make comparisons between working in a Victorian mill and a 21st century school.